

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, YO, SW
SUBJECT: REACTION TO SWEDISH PROGRAM ON CROATIAN SEPARATISTS

1. SWEDISH TELEVISION PROGRAM "CROATIANS -- TERRORISTS OR
FREEDOM FIGHTERS" HAS TOUCHED OFF SHARP REACTION IN ZAGREB
MEDIA. ZAGREB TELEVISION'S MAIN EVENING NEWS PROGRAM HAS
CARRIED CRITICAL COMMENTS FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS AND ZAGREB
DAILY NEWSPAPERS VJESNIK AND VECERNJI LIST HAVE REPRODUCED
TANJUG PIECES ATTACKING SWEDISH PROGRAM.

2. MOST DETAILED LOCAL COMMENT IS CARRIED IN FEBRUARY 5 VJESNIK.
EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE TRUTH ACCORDING TO GORANSSEN" LABELS
THE SWEDISH PROGRAM AS "LIES AND PERFIDIOUS DECEIT" AS WELL AS
"ANTI-NATIONAL AND ANTI-CROATIAN." AFTER BEGINNING WITH DE-
ROGATORY REFERENCES TO SWEDISH NEUTRALITY DURING WORLD WAR II,
VJESNIK EDITORIAL CONTINUES TO DEVELOP TWO MAJOR
POINTS: FIRST, CROATIAN SEPARATISTS ABROAD ARE NOT FIGHTING
FOR FREEDOM BUT FOR THE RETURN OF USTASHI TERROR AND THOSE
CROATIAN STUDENT LEADERS AND ACADEMICS ASSOCIATED WITH THE
EVENTS OF 1971 ARE NOT "POOR INTELLECTUALS" BUT FASCIST FELLOW
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TRAVELLERS; SECOND, THE SWEDISH PROGRAM IS PART OF A CAMPAIGN
OF PRESSURE IN CONJUNCTION WITH AN INTENSIFIED "SPECIAL WAR"
AGAINST SOCIALIST YUGOSLAVIA CONDUCTED BY "SOME INTELLIGENCE
AGENCIES." ACCORDING TO THE EDITORIAL, GORANSSEN HIMSELF IS
ALLEGED TO BE IN THE PAY OF THESE "REACTIONARY FORCES."

3. COMMENT: IN RECENT YEARS, SWEDEN HAS BEEN THE SITE OF SEVERAL TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA INCLUDING THE MURDER OF THE YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR. IN THIS CONTEXT, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT A SWEDISH PORTRAYAL OF CROATIAN SEPARATISTS WITH EVEN THE SLIGHTEST SYMPATHETIC OVERTONES WOULD TRIGGER A STRONG AND BITTER REACTION. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT THE FALLOUT -- IF ANY -- WILL BE FOR THOSE CROATIANS INSIDE YUGOSLAVIA WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM. IN PARTICULAR, ZVONIMIR CIIK, FORMER STUDENT PRO-RECTOR AT ZAGREB UNIVERSITY IN 1971, WHO ALSO GAVE A HIGHLY CRITICAL INTERVIEW TO SPIEGEL LAST FALL, APPEARS TO BE TESTING JUST HOW FAR THE YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES WILL LET HIM GO. KAISER

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